



**Cheshire College
South & West**

IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) Working Definition of Antisemitism Statement

Key Information	
Policy Reference Number	CCSW - IHRA
ELT Post Responsible for Update and Monitoring	Vice Principal - Innovation, Curriculum & Quality
Published on Website	Yes
Date approved by ELT	05 May 2026
Date Approved by Governor's Committee (if applicable)	N/A
Date of Next Review	05 May 2027

IHRA Statement

1. Cheshire College South and West is fully committed to promoting, maintaining and supporting equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of its work. The College aims to create an environment where all individuals have an opportunity to achieve their full potential and experience dignity, respect and a sense of belonging. The College expresses its opposition to all forms of inequality and discrimination.
2. The College formally adopts the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's \(IHRA\)](#) non-legally binding working definition on antisemitism in line with the UK government's adoption of the definition and its wider use across public and educational bodies.
3. According to IHRA, antisemitism is: *"a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."*
4. The College recognises that the IHRA definition is a practical guide to understanding and identifying antisemitism. Any consideration of whether conduct or speech may be antisemitic will take account of the overall context, relevant law, College policies and the rights and responsibilities of students, staff and visitors.
5. It is important to recognise that this approach does not prevent criticism of Israel or the actions of the Israeli government, just as all other nation states and governments can be the subject of critical discussion. For example, as set out by the [Home Affairs Committee in 2016](#):
 - 5.1. It is not antisemitic to criticise the government of Israel, without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent.
 - 5.2. It is not antisemitic to hold the Israeli government to the same standards as other liberal democracies or to take a particular interest in the Israeli government's policies or actions, without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent.
6. The College acknowledges that, while adopting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, it remains fully committed to freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law. Criticism of any nation's government, including Israel, is not inherently antisemitic and is protected under our Freedom of Speech and Academic Expression policies, provided this does not amount to unlawful harassment, discrimination, victimisation, incitement, threats or abuse.
7. The College also opposes all forms of racism, including Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian discrimination, and recognises the importance of creating a learning environment where complex and sensitive geopolitical issues can be discussed openly, respectfully, and without fear of reprisal.